GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2957
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2006
VISIT OF NHRC IN JAIL
Tripathy Shri Braja Kishore

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Human Rights Commission regularly visits various jails to see that human rights of prisoners are protected in jails in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the jails visited by NHRC during each of the last three year, State-wise;

(c) the main observations made by the NHRC after such visits, State-wise;

(d) the action taken by the Government and State Governments on such observations; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to check the violation of human rights in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): A State-wise list of jails, visited by NHRC during the last three years is annexed.

(c): The main observations made by NHRC after visiting the Jails State-wise are as under:

(i) Maharashtra: Overcrowding. Sanitation not satisfactory.

(ii) Chhatisgarh: Overcrowding; unfilled vacancies.

(iii) Karnataka: Jail infrastructure needs upgradation. Health care facilities inadequate. System of Board of visitors gone defunct.

(iv) West Bengal: Large number of Under Trial Prisoners. Sanitation not satisfactory.

(v) Himachal Pradesh: Position of staff is unsatisfactory. Housing facilities need improvement.

(vi) Haryana: Overcrowding. Sanitation not satisfactory. Unfilled posts.

(vii) Delhi: Overcrowding. Housing facilities is unsatisfactory.

(viii) Rajasthan: Inadequate health facilities. Unfilled vacancies.

(ix) Tripura: Dismal living conditions. Issue of parole needs examination.

(x) Kerala: Inadequate health facilities. Sanitation is poor at most places. Recreation facilities inadequate.

(xi) Andhra Pradesh: Overcrowding. Inadequate health facilities.

(xii) Goa: Old building needs renovation. Jail Adalats are not being held. System of Board of visitors got defunct.

(d): Prison is a State subject and it is for the State Governments to take suitable action on the observations of the NHRC. However, a number of States have reported to the NHRC that they have taken steps to address the deficiencies pointed out by it particularly in improving sanitation, construction of new jails and residences for the jail staff.

(e): The Government is sensitizing the State police forces and the jail officials through training programmes to prevent human right violations. NHRC also conducts training courses on human rights for police officers on regular basis.